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Social Security Administration
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DAY CARE SERVICES

form and substance

a report of a conference
November 17-18, 1960

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Social Security Administration • Children's Bureau

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Women's Bureau

1961



DAY CARE SERVICES

form and substance

a report of a conference
November 17-18, 1960

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foreword

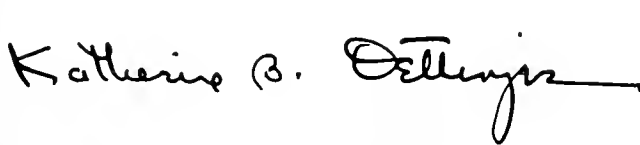
The National Conference on Day Care for Children, convened in November 1960, was the first of its kind ever held in the United States. The conference was sponsored by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor. In the planning and arrangement of this conference, both agencies joined with voluntary organizations concerned about the welfare of children and their families who felt that a pooling of knowledge and experience would be of mutual benefit in the promotion of community action on day care.

This publication gives a full report of the conference proceedings—including the steps taken in the year long planning by the two Bureaus and an ad hoc advisory committee, and a brief statement on the evolution of nursery schools and day-care services.


In the spirit of the American democratic tradition, those participating in the conference expressed their ideas and opinions freely. As is true in any discussion affecting family welfare, many issues are controversial. The recommendations given in this report reflect the consensus of the 12 working groups who prepared them. As President John F. Kennedy said in a message read at the conference, "Conflict can be turned to good advantage if it stimulates not only increased awareness but also positive action." Although the individual speakers, the representatives attending the conference, and the Government agencies sponsoring the conference may not agree wholeheartedly with each other's opinions and ideas, all the varying viewpoints and objectives are presented in this report. These have been edited somewhat in the interests of brevity and clarity.

The Children's Bureau and the Women's Bureau acknowledge with grateful appreciation the efforts of the planning group, the symposium speakers, and the representatives of the many public and private organizations who contributed so much to the success of the day-care conference. Grateful acknowledgment is made also to those who reviewed the draft report and provided comments.

In publishing this report, it is our hope that it will stimulate those already working in this field, and that it will encourage further efforts among Federal, State, and local government agencies as well as among volunteer organizations in the provision of adequate day-care services for the children who need them.



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FOREGROUND FOR THE CONFERENCE

ON NOVEMBER 17-18, 1960, a group of people representing voluntary and public agencies, citizen and professional organizations, labor and management, came to Washington at the request of the Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, and the Children's Bureau, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, to consider the urgent and growing nationwide need for day-care services.

For some time prior to this conference, many people in a variety of places had been searching for ways to imbue communities with some concept of what a tremendous force for national well-being a full program of day-care services for children could be. These groups had held sessions in New York, Washington, Atlantic City, and other points in the country to spotlight the plight of children who, for some reason or other, needed care and protection for part of the day by people other than their own parents.

These groups had been meeting all over the country and, through working and communicating with each other, found that there was compelling support for a national meeting. The long-time concern of the Women's Bureau and the Children's Bureau for the day-care needs of children placed these two agencies at the focus of this interest. With the encouragement and support from a myriad of sources, the two Bureaus decided to call together a core group to assay interest in day care, define objectives and purposes, and decide on means of achieving them.

In November 1959, an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee on the Day Care of Children was appointed. Twelve people selected from volunteer women's associations, labor, management, national social agencies, education, and health agencies began threshing out proposals. A decision was made that a national conference on day care for children was the best vehicle through which to call the country's attention to the potential for positive living that day-care services provide both

now and in the future. The National Capital was selected for the site. The conference grew in size from 100 to 400.

Every query concerning day care was placed before the committee. Ideas, concepts, understandings, misunderstandings, controversies, definitions, purposes, ad infinitum, were tossed into the cauldron for assessment. Form and substance for the conference had to be delineated and cut to fit the realities of time, money, place, personnel, and energy.

An infinite number of pieces constitute the day-care pie. Each piece bears significance to the ideal program which might be hoped for in the future. Delimiting the conference content necessarily enforced the selection of primary goals and areas within which to explore. This proved to be a most complicated task and one which consumed much time for the next few months.

Following the first meeting, the committee was doubled in size to diversify the interests and to create a more representative group. Eventually through individual interviews, subcommittee meetings, and subsequent meetings of the entire committee emerged a common consent that the most pressing problem, in view of the known and unknown numbers of children needing care, was to arouse the concern of communities and to provide practical means of action for advancing day-care services wherever they were needed.

Through the working participation of members of the committee, the following purposes were born. The conference would seek:

- To encourage development of day-care services for children who needed them.

- To examine the extent and variety of day-care needs and resources.

- To identify roadblocks in providing day-care services, adequate in quantity, quality, and distribution.

- To promote good standards for safeguarding the children served.

- To foster wider understanding of the pressing need for day-care services.

- To stimulate broader community responsibility for day-care services.

- To develop recommendations for citizen and professional action at local, State, and national levels.

From this statement of purpose stemmed the precise and careful planning of the program, geared not to the minutiae of activities for children, nor to the exploration of the infinite knowables about their growth and development, but to the broad, sweeping areas of a day-care service which could create community sponsorship and citizen leadership for this important approach to the preservation of family life.



FROM THEN TO NOW

AS A BACKGROUND for this report, it seems appropriate to scan, in at least a panoramic way, the highlights of day-care services for children and their families.

While a full historical picture on day-care services cannot be presented here, the peaks of its development in the United States and their relationship to the current scene are important for this conference.

The first day nursery in the United States opened its doors in 1854 in New York City. It resulted from a woman's concern for those children left alone during the day while their mothers eked out an existence in domestic service or in the factories of the community. Her solicitude reflected an inherent belief as to the importance of family life for the child—a forerunner of our present concept that a child's own home should be preserved for him when and if it is at all possible, and that enfeebled financial resources should never be the sole cause of denying a child his own family.

This first day-care effort emphasized the need of charity for mothers who worked, and the care it offered was purely custodial considered in the light of modern knowledge. However, without question, the experience gained through the years in early day nurseries such as this produced a firm foundation for our ever expanding understanding of children's needs and ways of meeting them.

Following 1854, day nurseries came into being all over the country—each one a philanthropic effort on the part of a community.

With the changing social and economic scene, day-nursery personnel, like their counterparts in other forms of social service, came to the conclusion that they needed to join forces to exchange ideas, formulate plans for expansion of service, and gather momentum on a larger front. As a consequence, the National Federation of Day Nurseries was founded in Chicago in 1898. It represented the first cooperative effort to instill in the minds and hearts of communities that day care must be part of the fabric of community service, that this

service had something unique to offer, and that standards were necessary if children were to be safeguarded.

Despite these solid beginnings, the expansion of day-care programs has been sporadic. Day care received impetus from the tragedies of the Civil War, World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. After each of these events, enthusiasm leveled off. But, fortunately, each time the valley of depleted interest was less deep and a plodding sort of uphill progress occurred.

Prior to World War II, the depression of the thirties probably saw the greatest growth in nursery schools and day-care centers. But the primary purpose of these centers was to provide employment of women in public works programs rather than to meet the developmental requirements of children.

During World War II, the requirements of children were of concern and new knowledge was applied in the day nurseries, day-care centers, and family day-care homes. However, the primary emphasis was on the need of the Nation to utilize women in the defense efforts and on the necessity of the mother to have day-care services to provide care for her children while she worked.

Since World War II, ever-increasing concern for children and development of sound programs of day care to meet their needs are slowly replacing the former emphasis. The shift is not yet complete but this point of view is slowly seeping into the planning and promotion of day-care services.

It is to be hoped that the effect will be to increase immeasurably the dimension of service to children.



THE CONFERENCE ITSELF

THE CONFERENCE was designed to open with a symposium to lay before the participants a background of information and opinion about the problem, the hurdles, the changing scene of current living, together with some ideas for resolution of the inadequate quality and quantity of day-care service now available.

From this background would come fruitful discussion on a variety of issues at stake. The discussion logically then could move to formulating recommendations upon which the Nation could act.

Symposium

Not all the facts nor all the problems could come before the conference, but a sifting of these by the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee occurred, and a selection of the most pertinent was made for this symposium.

Women in the labor force (Dr. Ewan Clague, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor)

Because working mothers are the greatest consumers of day-care services, a look at their relative importance in the labor force seemed imperative.

Dr. Clague created a vivid picture of one facet of our era with

his concise presentation of the economic factors affecting day care for children.

One of the outstanding trends in the labor force in the last half century has been the marked increase in the number of women workers. Women, of course, have always worked; in fact, in many societies they do most of the work.

In defining the labor force, however, economists insist that work be defined as that kind of activity which is paid for. Thus, to be included in the labor force statistics, a person must have paid employment or be actively seeking a job with pay. The difficulty here is that many women work in their homes for love of their families rather than for pay, and this kind of work cannot be measured in economic tabulations. Even so, and within the existing definition, the longrun trend of women's participation in the labor force is unmistakable.

In 1900, only 18 percent of the Nation's labor force were women. By 1920, the proportion had increased to 20 percent, and by 1940 to 25 percent. By 1960, the ratio had risen to fully one-third. When measured in absolute numbers there were about 5 million women in the labor force in 1900, and by 1960 this had increased over $4\frac{1}{2}$ times. This trend has been due to a number of factors. An outstanding one has been the marked decline in agricultural employment and the rise of industrial and commercial jobs. Of special importance has been the great increase in white-collar activities of all kinds.

In 1919, immediately after World War I, about two-thirds of the labor force in this country was engaged in the production industries—agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and construction. Today, women constitute about one-fourth of manufacturing employment, but only a small fraction of the other three. Only about one-third of the 1919 labor force was engaged in the remaining sources of employment—wholesale and retail trade; transportation and communication; insurance and real estate; Federal, State, and local governments; and service industries such as hotels, laundries, beauty parlors, and the like. These are the industry groups in which women are frequently employed and in some, women are the dominant job holders.

Over the years since 1919, there has been a complete turnabout, with about 5 million more workers employed in the service industries during 1959 than in the goods producing industries.

The growth of the service industries has provided women with many job opportunities; and, in turn, the availability of increasing numbers of women workers has made possible the rapid expansion of such industries.

Our particular concern for this conference is not with women workers in general, but with those who are rearing young children. The working life pattern of women is, first, that quite a high proportion of them undertake work outside the home in the late teens and early twenties, before marriage. After marriage, a considerable fraction turn to the rearing of children. Later, at about age 40, after the children are old enough to take care of themselves, women tend to reenter the labor force in large numbers. There are, however, many married women

who work outside the home even though they have young children to care for.

In March 1959, there were 17.2 million women in the labor force who had ever been married—almost exactly one-third of the 51.7 million such women in the population. Approximately 8 million (almost half) of these women had children under 18 years of age—about 5 million, children 6 to 17 years only; 3 million, children under 6 years.

The numbers of married women in the labor force have been increasing markedly since World War II. Let us take the labor force status of married women with husband present, which means leaving out for the moment the widowed, divorced, and separated women with children. Married women (husband present) with children 6 to 17 years old increased from about 2 million in the spring of 1948 to 4 million in the spring of 1959. Those women with children under 6 years (whether or not there were older children as well) also doubled in numbers over the decade—from $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ million. It is clear that a larger and larger proportion of married women with children are going outside the home to work.

These are the trends from the past. What is the outlook for the future? According to projections issued by the Department of Labor in 1960, the labor force will grow by more than 13 million during the decade from 1960 to 1970, approximately an 18 percent increase. Almost half of this large increase will consist of women workers. For example, in 1970, it seems likely that fully half of all women in the population between the ages of 35 and 55 will be in the labor force. Excluding teenage girls and women 65 years of age and over, at least two out of every five women in 1970 will be in the labor force.

This trend is particularly applicable to the group of women we are discussing here. Among women whose children are in school or past school age, the proportion who will be in the labor force in 1970 will be much higher than it is now. Consequently, the problem of the care of children of working mothers will be even greater than it is today.

This expansion in the number of women workers is being facilitated and encouraged by shifts in the supply of and demand for labor. For one thing, during the coming decade the number of male workers will increase very little in the age group 25 to 34, and will actually decline in the age group 35 to 44. This latter group includes persons born during the Great Depression when the birth rates were low. Another shift, noted earlier, is the continuing growth of white-collar occupations in the service industries. These are the occupations which employ large proportions of women. The structure of American industry is changing in the direction of greater opportunities for women workers.

Another factor in this shift is the increasing opportunities for workers who choose to work part time. It is estimated that there will be 16 million part-time workers in 1970, a 30 percent increase over 1960. These part-time workers are heavily concentrated in the service industries. In 1959, about 22 percent of the workers in the service and finance group of industries usually worked part time, and about 18 percent of the workers in wholesale and retail trade were part-time

employees. In addition, it is expected that other industries will re-schedule more of their jobs to a part-time basis.

The part-time workers consist very largely of young people in school and of adult women, many of the latter with home responsibilities. So it appears that the nature of the job opportunities developing in the 1960's will encourage the employment of increasing numbers of women, including mothers. Thus, the day-care problem can become much more serious than it is today.

Changing values in our society (Dr. Ethel J. Alpenfels, Professor of Anthropology, School of Education, New York University)

Dr. Clague's factual statements about the changing work patterns of women and the trends in our society brought into focus the implications of these American phenomena upon the life and times of all our people. The statistics reflected the impact of changes in our living patterns created by the social, economic, and cultural upheaval that we as a nation have felt. Acceptance of change is, as usual, not without resistance, for the notion of women's role never changing is rooted in the age-old concept of her place in society.

Answers are hard to come by, but a provocative exposé of the dilemma at least created an atmosphere in which answers were sought. From the field of social anthropology came a view of our own society which put some things in better perspective and provided a framework for delving into the mass of confusion that exists in relation to fact and fancy.

Dr. Alpenfels raised a number of questions to which we as a nation and we as individuals must seek answers. Are the values by which we live compatible with those we claim to hold most dear? Change is inevitable and rapid, but can we keep pace with the change and steer a true course, with the paradoxical element of unwillingness to accept change? Materialism is more pronounced, yet our creed denies this. Denial of conformity is expressed, yet a stereotype of the proper exists. In order to come to grips with the attitudes, prejudices, and bias, we must examine our culture in light of the times with a hope of finding the truth and being able to define the real values to be sustained.

The language of culture comes to bear in everything we do, and we must open our ears, listen, and hear what culture says to us if we are to cope with this conflict. Emergence of a new approach to basic values for us as individuals and as a nation can only come from appraisal of our culture.

What appears to be uppermost in America today is the honor we attach to material well-being. This is the major value, and many of us ask, "Why?"

Our attitudes toward work and play have all been revolutionized. The gap between work and play arising out of an economic society has become so great that not only the attitude, but the actuality as well, separate work into one thing and play into another. And so work may be unpleasant. It is something we have to do to obtain money, the thing as a society we seem to want most. Play is for children. This attitude toward work divides parents and children. We talk much about leisure time, yet never before have people had less time. In addition, we have to stop working so hard when we play and begin to play when we work.

The last major change has to do with individualism and conformity, for this ties in with our society and leads to many of the reasons by which and for which women go out of their homes to work. One of the values we say we prize most is that of individualism, yet conformity seems to be rampant in our present day society. If we really believe in individualism, then we have to teach this as a major value to children from the day they are born.

Conflict between children and parents often stems from the conflict between individualism and conformity. Perhaps our greatest area of conforming is in the obsession about possession of material goods. Individualism abounds in the thinking of children and young people. The decision is when to teach conformity and when to teach individualism. This is bound up in our assessing our basic values and there is room for both. Changing cultural patterns have made necessary changing ideas in this area, and until we iron out some of the confusion, we have trouble transmitting a solid base to children. Ideas are the core of a nation's strength. Opportunity to look at ideas is the most important part of the educational system we can devise today.

In summing up, Dr. Alpenfels said that as we resolve conflicts within our culture, we must train our girls to carry a dual role—not only that of housewife and mother but also as part of the labor market—using the skills which higher education has equipped her to use.

Essentially, day-care programs have the potential for setting life patterns for many children and the best we can offer will provide the capacity to accept freedom; individuality going hand in hand with responsibility in a democracy.

Why day care? (Mrs. Randolph Guggenheimer, President of the National Committee for the Day Care of Children and also of the Day-Care Council of New York City)

Recognizing the fundamental principle that no community service ever comes into being without the support and understanding of those in the community and adhering to the firm purpose of the conference that day care had to be enthusiastically endorsed by volunteer leadership in order to come into its own, a volunteer, Mrs. Gug-

gugenheimer, was chosen to present the why's and how's of day care.

To understand some of the intricacies of the role of the volunteers and to rally them to action is a major emphasis of the conference. To ask whether a community should be concerned about day care is like asking if it should be concerned about a pure water supply, hospitals, preventing abuse of children, or any other aspect of decent community living. Long ago our society accepted that, for our own sakes, we band together and provide some community services which can better be provided through joint efforts than by individuals.

As free citizens, we have the right and obligation to insure that health and welfare services and educational opportunities are available to all people who need them. We are also a society committed to the principle that such services should employ the most modern knowledge and best known techniques and methods. The test, therefore, of whether day care should be a community concern is related to the need for it.

Unfortunately, day care has less accurate research findings than other areas of health and welfare services upon which to base its practice. We cannot give the precise numbers of families using the service, nor the precise numbers needing it. However, the statistics available on the numbers of unsupervised children under 12 years of age, the numbers of women in the working force, the numbers of broken homes, the inadequacy of public assistance grants, and many other pieces of information dispel any doubt about the need for day-care services. Indications are that the numbers of children placed in full-time foster care or institutions who may never return to a family of their own could be sharply lessened if some supplementary services to their own families were available when needed. Though one of the most obvious preventive and family strengthening programs, day care is usually lowest in its priority rating.

Mrs. Guggenheimer stated that we need to know to what extent day-care services are needed, what kind of services are required, and whether or not those we have are satisfactory. We need to know what values day-care services have for families where the mother is not employed. We need to follow through on their value for older children.

Every community must take part in finding answers to these questions so that we can add to the sum total of our knowledge of what is happening to children today in our own communities. This should be done before they become known to the courts, to social agencies, and to the organizations designed to deal with a family crisis. Let's prevent the crisis before it happens.

Another great concern of this conference is the poor care being given children who are out of their own homes for part of the day. Lack of community responsibility has led to the use of substandard arrangements as the only alternative.

Some of the desperate conditions in which many children, who supposedly are cared for, are forced to spend their waking hours are appalling. We know very little about what is happening in child care in migrant camps, yet we do know the national picture of the plight of

the migrant family is not a pretty one.

What day-care services there are concentrate on service to the working mother. Many children have serious needs for day care that have nothing to do with employment of the mother, such as illness of the mother, emotional disturbance, death of the mother, desertion of the mother by the father, slum living with no place to play, poor family relationships, too many siblings with whom to share parental support and love.

One of the things we forget is that not all parents are warm, loving, and affectionate. Many of them come from families where they never received love or warmth and, in turn, they never learned to give it.

Day care can do one of two things—give the child the strength he needs to withstand the pressures of a home without good relationships, or help change the home and the attitudes of the parents. It may do both. In many cases, a mother who works is a better mother the hours she is at home than one who feels she is frustrated by being “nothing more exciting than a housewife.”

Ambivalence is widespread in our society about the woman's role. So much of the way we live invites women to seek employment outside the home. The stress on prestige and status related to material possessions and, perhaps even more, the fact that some of us put the family on public assistance at the bottom of the barrel can be held accountable. This latter attitude negates the primary reason the country chose to provide public assistance.

Day care should be used to strengthen family life and its acceptance should not be based on economic need. The latter should be important only in determining the fee paid by parents.

Considering all the signs which tell us day-care services are vital, we still have to face the obstacles which prevent us from obtaining what we know is needed. First and most devastating is the lack of conviction that we have in our selling. Even those of us who are imbued with a real fervor for day care tend to apologize for our product. We approach the whole matter negatively and feel impelled to explain it as a service to be used when all else fails. If we are trying to interpret the need for support of day care to the public, those of us who understand the program must have real conviction about its intrinsic value.

Perhaps our apologetic attitude results from our reluctance to accept the reality of a society that has invited women to leave home. We urge them to go to college, to prepare for careers; we do not legislate against their working, yet reverse ourselves by saying they should stay home.

The argument that day-care services will make more women leave their children and enter the labor market is sometimes used as an argument against adequate services. There is every indication that the provision of good services in no way affects the number of women who enter the labor force. Women work for other reasons than the presence or absence of good child care services. Such presence or absence affects only the child.

“We encourage women to leave their homes and support their

children rather than accepting aid to dependent children because of the low status we accord such assistance."

Another obstacle is the hesitance with which we interpret the costs of good day care. Why should we apologize for the cost of a service to children that will preserve the best of life for them—their home life. If we can't sell the value of the program, we stand even less chance of selling the cost. As a result, with inadequate funds, either substandard operations continue to exist or fees are too high for those who most need the service. This leads to underuse of facilities that do exist.

If a child is found half starved and abandoned, the community is aroused and does something; if he commits a crime, he must be placed where either containment or, hopefully, rehabilitation is the goal; but if he is being cared for by a neighbor who hasn't time to give him, who leaves him unsupervised during part of the day, who may even be moderately cruel, his plight goes unnoticed. If he is being fed, and not getting into real trouble, and being guarded against actual physical harm, it doesn't seem urgent to spend 15 dollars or more a week of community funds to care for him.

We understress the fact that day care gives children an opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally before crises occur and that as a result, other crises can be forestalled. We neglect to point out that day care reaches out into the community and neighborhood and brings in the most disturbed families, when they are still young and still have the possibility of being helped. We do not stress that day care not only prevents damaging neglect but offers children positive strengths that enable them to do better in school; to get along better with their peers; to endure what may, despite our efforts, remain less than desirable home conditions.

The type of neglect that the child may suffer who is cared for by an indifferent neighbor may not seem dramatic at the time. But it becomes dramatic, perhaps even tragic, when one considers that sometimes patterns that are laid down for children in their early years are those which become the structure on which mental illness, juvenile delinquency, and future poor parent-child relationships are built.

Woven throughout Mrs. Guggenheimer's presentation was an exploration of the barriers to the provision of good day care. There may be many more, but wherever they are, our task is to explore methods through which we can either break through the barriers, hurdle them, or destroy them entirely.

No matter what attitudes prevail, the first and most important steps are to establish need for, and then to develop and enforce high standards. Until there is a sound and enforceable base for day-care services, probably in a State licensing law, with teeth in it and staff to enforce it, we will have shoddy goods to sell.

So let us amass solid facts—they, in themselves, will be dramatic. Then we must analyze the audience we wish to convince. Parents need help in understanding what their children need. Not only preschool children but children of all ages require supervision during the day. The form changes as youngsters get older, but our goal must be that

there is at least one adult able to answer the question, "Where is the child?"

A different approach is needed to sell the leadership in the community. Neighborhood leadership, citywide leadership, State and national leadership need to understand the real meaning of good day-care services.

City and State government officials must also be reached since public funds are the future of the day-care program. The size of the need has already proven that voluntary funds cannot do the job. Support from all sources—parent fees, voluntary and community chest donations, local, State, and Federal sources—must be tapped if a sound financial structure is to exist. If the story is well told, negative attitudes about day care will begin to disappear and progressive action take their place.

Another suggestion for breaking the barriers probably should have come first—get a couple of fanatics on the importance of day care. There is no substitute for them in creating an onslaught of public opinion. The first day nursery in this country opened its doors only because one woman was indignant that children were being left alone while their mothers worked. She nagged her husband and friends until out of sheer exhaustion they capitulated. The method still works.

There is no magic formula for stimulating community concern for day-care services. It's the old "know your story, believe in it, and organize ways of telling it." The only magic in the formula is that growing out of the love we have for children. Our society, when it threw out the Victorian image of childhood, threw out the baby with the bath water. As a nation, we need to get back a little more to the image of the treasured child, to the recognition that there is nothing maudlin or sentimental about a society that loves children—and that the community concern that must always tower above all others is for our children. Whatever our ambivalence about the role of women may be, we must at least have no ambivalence about what the place of children is. They are our future and our immortality. No monument or edifice or pyramid has meaning except in relation to the men who will someday see it or use it.

In closing, Mrs. Guggenheimer read portions of a letter she had received from the then President-elect John F. Kennedy, because she believed it augured well for the future of the day-care program.

"I wholly agree, that, in addition to Federal leadership to control and prevent juvenile delinquency, we must have provision for day care centers for children whose mothers are unavailable during the day. Without adequate day time care during their most formative years the children of the nation risk permanent damage to their emotional and moral character.

"Of the 22 million working women in 1958, almost 3 million had children under 6 years of age and another 4,600,000 had school age children between 6 and 17. This is cause for serious national concern. Certainly the child welfare program and other services established under the Social Security Act should be expanded. In addition, I believe we must take further steps to encourage day care programs that will protect

our children and provide them with the basis for a full life in later years. The suggestion of a program of research, financing and development to serve the children of working mothers and of parents who for one reason and another cannot provide adequate care during the day deserves our full support."

Day care—an essential child welfare service (Joseph H. Reid, Executive Director of the Child Welfare League of America)

Fact, theory, philosophy, and practical ways and means having been explored, the presentation of day-care service in its proper juxtaposition to all kinds of community programs was necessary. So many components make up the day-care picture—education, health, mental health, counseling, finances, etc.—that there is no short, straight line demarking day-care service and placing it unequivocally under one umbrella. However, since it is more than an educational program, more than safety from physical harm, more than health and sanitation, and embodies the whole child and his family situation, the primary focus at this point in time seems to be on the care and protection of the child which encompasses all the other components and adds a plus; it is a child welfare service.

In order for the conference to set its sights and circumscribe its deliberations within reasonable limits, Mr. Reid uttered a challenge to all the participants. He called on them for depth of thinking, a creative approach to the problem of day care as a child welfare service, and a realistic approach to all that had been said before.

Assuming that day-care services are within the orbit of child welfare, we must not just bedevil the public to accept our assumption. Of course the number one priority is to convince the public of the need for day care and gain its understanding. Communities must be made to understand that we endanger the lives of children and the welfare of the community when haphazard arrangements are made for their care. However, the proponents of day care need to reassess their product and see if they are too professional in their approach, and if the structure of the services offered is too formidable. Attendance at this conference implies interest and concern for day care but let us not be complacent as to mood—we need to take ourselves apart, not just air what we know. Let us not be a mutual admiration society with condemnation for those who do not see the same values we ascribe to day-care services.

Deliberations should be explorative, experimental, and creative. If we do not have facts to substantiate what we believe, we should either figure out ways to get them or be willing to admit they do not exist. In the realm of day-care services for children under three, we strongly condemn group care—this from our knowledge of the growth and develop-

ment of young children, not from scientific research findings. We should not give up this idea, but let us look hard at experiences in other countries where infants are in group care and be sure we have the answers straight before condemning the practice.

The standards recently recommended are higher than most of the practices we can point to. This is as it should be—ever striving for a higher and better world for children. On the other hand, perhaps a realistic reappraisal of these standards may lead us to new endeavors which can more nearly meet demands.

Most important is another look at the training and recruitment of day-care workers in order to get programs going. The millennium could come before any more day care comes into being if we wait for the ideal.

Truth is never static—what is truth today may be different tomorrow in the light of new knowledge, and if the truth is to make us free, then we must continually press for new light. This conference should dissect—really take the field apart—and on the basis of new examination make services available to children who need them. Is there something wrong with our thinking about day-care services, or is the only impediment lack of community understanding? A fearlessness about how we look at ourselves and our product will give us strength in coming to grips with all the problems facing the day-care movement.

The heart of the matter

Perhaps a better way will appear on the horizon than use of workshop or discussion groups to get at the heart of a matter. In a democracy, this priceless exchange among people of ideas, concepts, experiences, agreements, and disagreements has yet to be superseded by more effective methods. Thus for this conference, bringing together those with mutual interests to delve into the problems, current programs, assets and liabilities as well as the day-care dream resulted in much richness in the 12 discussion groups.

Leadership for these groups was drawn from all over the country with a view not only of acquiring competence but also of interspersing a multiplicity of interests, disciplines, and backgrounds. This added zest as well as full-bodied flavor to the final production.

A comprehensive community program of day-care services takes into account the auxiliary services needed to make day care an effective tool for prevention of family disruption and the care and protection of children. Day-care centers have received much more attention than other kinds of day care, partially because the community can view the facilities and the children in their activities, and

can feel a relationship to the center which is not possible with family day care or arrangements made by parents with the neighbor or other relatives. Community education is necessary to bring day care into its proper focus as a preventive service. It may avert full-time foster care and prevent family breakdown, at an early stage, by reaching families with problems. It is also true that the social work component in good day-care service is less tangible than the educational or health components; therefore, it usually gets short shrift if choices have to be made or services limited.

Currently the emphasis placed on day-care service for young children reveals that the emotional appeal seems to be the chief bartering element. Everyone knows the preschool child must be protected against physical hazards. The school-age child is another story. Communities willing to support day care for young children sometimes have difficulty in accepting the same responsibility for the child in school. We find a great gap between services to children under 6 and those to children up to 12 or even older. Current knowledge about good mental health, emotional damage, prevention of maladjustment all indicate that today's concept of the needs of the older child is fallacious. To those planning the conference, the logical jumping-off place for promoting adequate day-care services, therefore, appeared to be an assessment by the discussion groups of what a comprehensive community service should be.

Essential elements in a good community program

Group 1: Services to preschool children (Leader: Mrs. Madeleine Siemann, Executive Director, Children's Centers, Mills College of Education and the New York City Department of Public Welfare)

Group 1 concentrated on examining all facets of day-care service for preschool children.

Mrs. Siemann began by circumscribing the scope of the task before the group. In the context of the conference, preschool children included those from birth to 6 years. For these children, day-care centers, family day care, and other methods of caring for children part of the day would need to be considered. So far as possible, nursery schools, kindergartens, and play groups that have as their primary focus the education of the child were excluded in order to carry out the purpose of the conference to deal with day-care services as a community responsibility.

A number of questions related to services for the preschool child were posed for the group: (1) what are the goals of good day-care services? (2) what kind of standards do we want and how do we set them? (3) what is the role of personnel in health, education, and social work in providing quality day care? (4) what variety of day-care services should be available in order to meet individual needs? and (5) what other community services are necessary to supplement day-care services or to serve children?

Mrs. Siemann reviewed items of specific knowledge available which had bearing on the subject, such as statistics about working mothers; special problems of this generation, such as broken homes, children born out of wedlock, physical and emotional illness in families, population mobility, and migrant families.

Mrs. Siemann went on to say that in the realm of nonstatistical facts, and so far undisputed, is the knowledge that infants and small children require a warm, intimate, and continuing relationship with their mothers and that deprivation of this relationship can be a major source of serious personality disorder. That a child's own mother may not be able to provide this kind of relationship is also a fact; and for the sake of the future, society has a responsibility to find adequate substitutes for some young children.

Since the focal point of the entire conference was how to promote community action on behalf of day care, aspects of child growth and development were given only cursory attention by the group. Review of these was used only to bring the group to a common meeting ground whereby they could consider community services to meet these needs.

Although basic research neither confirms nor denies our belief that the child under three should not be in group care, at this time, the best we know is that sharing love and affection too broadly is not within the capacity of the small child. We also know that there are hundreds of children who are under three who must be cared for part of the day by persons other than their own parents. This fact gives us impetus to find the best for these children. Far too little has been done in the field of family day care.

Family day care is that service which is under the auspices of a social work agency where a daytime home, with a daytime mother, is found to meet the need of the particular child. Each home is selected for each child, taking into account the personalities and problems of the natural mother and the capabilities of the daytime mother.

A family day-care home should have few if any other small children in it so that the infant or toddler can have the attention from a loving adult which he needs and does not have to share this affection too much. The balancing of the care of the child in two settings is

one of the important reasons for casework supervision. This kind of day-care placement requires constant supervision and must be guided by skilled social work staff.

Admitting the deplorable situations into which some young babies and children are being placed, the group saw family day care as an urgent need in every community. A few agencies have done a magnificent job in experimenting and demonstrating with this service. This type of care is expensive, but not as expensive as broken homes. Promotion of family day care should come close to having first priority in the overall effort for more adequate day-care service.

The whole gamut of community services for children and their families must be included in the community's purview. Relationships with the juvenile and family court should be appraised; homemaker service may be an answer to some needs; but certainly the entire public assistance and public child welfare program is vital to the development of adequate day care. All of this may have particular significance for the child under school age. Many working mothers who have children under 6 work because of dire financial need. A mother should not be forced to work solely for financial reasons. Without counseling services, day-care service, particularly for the young child, may be used inadvisedly. Adequate intake service, therefore, is essential in establishing suitable arrangements.

Psychiatric and psychological consultation are a must as part of a good program. Health services, both in conjunction with the day-care program and within the community, are essential.

A creative approach to family need must be found whereby parents can be involved in an ongoing educational, informational program. To hold meetings is not enough. Working parents, or those with the least stability, the immature, the harassed, may not attend. Ways and means must be found to draw such parents into the program, and this responsibility falls upon the agency, itself. It is an essential element of good service.

Family day care seems to be the most practical program for the young child but needs to be considered for older siblings, too, especially in view of bonds of affection and healthy family patterns. Separation of children according to chronological age is not necessarily best. Again the expert caseworker takes into account the entire family constellation before making a judgment.

Distribution of day-care services throughout a community is very important. For the young child, traveling from one end of town to the other adds to the strain of a long day. Location of service within the neighborhood of children being served is vital to a good community program.

Not all parents will come to agencies for help. Often they seek an easier way out by using neighbors who are available rather

than go through the process of intake which is necessary if good diagnosis of each situation is to take place. Responsibility for interpretation and sympathetic understanding rests with the community and its agencies.

Efforts to enlist the cooperation of employers, both individually and collectively, is part of the responsibility of the community. Perhaps we have to be more creative in finding help for the sole breadwinner who must remain at home when his child is ill.

Nursery school education is an essential part of the day-care center for the young child. That it has to be altered and varied according to the long hours day-care centers may need to serve children does not negate the vital role it plays nor the values it provides. Standards of personnel in all centers should meet if not exceed those required by nursery schools. Good personnel practices and salary scales are exceedingly important for the effective operation of a day-care center.

Group 2: Services to school-age children (Leader: Dr. W. Mason Mathews, Merrill-Palmer Institute of Human Development and Family Life)

Although no artificial barrier determines the upper age when a child no longer needs care and protection during the day if his mother or relatives are unable to provide it, discussion of day-care services for school-age children was limited to those up to 12 years of age.

Since the majority of children of school age have the ability to form relationships with many people, the concentration of the discussion revolved around the day-care center rather than family day care. But even though the majority do fit into group experiences, a community must be wary of falling into the trap of assuming that group care meets the need of all children. A careful assessment of the child's family and school relationships may reveal for some individuals a very desperate need for more individual treatment than even a small group can provide. A comprehensive community program must provide for the school-age child who needs a family to supplement his own.

In order to delimit its discussion, the group assumed that a day-care center is a public or voluntary facility where children are cared for during the day, outside of their own homes, by qualified people in suitable physical surroundings. To some, this assumption exceeded the bounds of realism. Many more school-age children are cared for in the commercial or proprietary centers, through partial

participation in public recreation centers, by after school activities on a limited basis, utilization of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other organized groups, than are found in day-care centers. The arrangements with neighbors, babysitters, and other relatives are much more casual for this age group than for the young child, even though the potential for permanent damage is as great. The large number of totally unsupervised children falls in this age bracket. Any community that permits its children to go unsupervised runs tremendous risks in terms of future individual and community problems.

In order to plan for a comprehensive community program of day-care services for school-age children, Dr. Mathews pointed out the first approach is to look at the known facts about child growth and development.

A child functions as a whole child in his world, not just in his skin. The adult world has a great responsibility for providing the best possible opportunity for a child to become a mature person—a person who is comfortable with himself and who can take responsibility for his own behavior without blaming others for his weaknesses.

For this kind of growing up, a warm and vivid emotional climate is necessary. Warm and loving relationships provide this climate. If children do not feel loved and wanted, their emotional development is affected. Their capacity for responding emotionally becomes narrow, or they may react in highly emotional, negative ways.

Children need developmental experiences in which intellectual and emotional learnings are integrated. They need experiences that are clearly structured but give them freedom to think, explore, and create. They need to be with people who can help them learn what it means to use this freedom well, how to take increasing responsibility for making their own decisions and dealing with the consequences.

Today day-care facilities vary greatly in their goals, policies, housing, schedules, and practices. This variety is good if there are some general principles behind these differences. Unfortunately, the day-care movement is not yet soundly based on generalizations which can be widely used as guides for developing local projects. Before plans for expansion gain too much momentum, we must be surer of our foundations. Old ideas need to be reexamined in terms of new purposes.

It is imperative that all the agencies serving children intensify and coordinate their efforts to provide the environments in which these kinds of learning can go on, because we are moving faster today in the area of material change than in our understanding of our own emotional and intellectual growth.

The members of the group considered the day-care center as an agency evolving out of the needs of our time to take its place with the other community agencies serving children and families. They felt strongly that if day-care services are good for children of working

mothers, they are good for any children who need care and supervision during the day. The increasing lack of safe places for children to play, especially in cities, is making it necessary to plan for many children in the development of community day-care facilities. Handicapped children should very definitely be included in planning for day care.

Standards for day care should represent the combined experience, wisdom, and training of people in many professional fields. The common denominator is knowledge of what is reliably known about child growth and development.

The group felt that in addition to the protection they offer, good day-care services have unique potentialities for enriching the lives of children.

Unless school-age children enjoy the activities provided, they will not come to the center. Attendance among these older youngsters has dwindled in some of the larger programs.

Many instances of cooperation on the part of schools were cited. In California, the program is sponsored and, in part, financially supported by the public schools. In Philadelphia, teachers are helping to write a guide for the day-care program. In New York City, relationships between schools and centers are extremely close.

Opinion in the group seemed to be divided on the wisdom of involving children and parents in setting goals and in the management of the center. All agreed that close working relations with parents are essential and that the best way to win the confidence of parents is to listen carefully when they are ready to talk. Unless there is two-way communication between parents and center personnel, the center cannot possibly know enough about the home and family life to plan care for its children.

The group did not consider in any detail the questions on community relations, evaluation, and qualifications of personnel. It was agreed that adequate day-care programs cannot be provided under wholly voluntary resources because of the cost. For this reason, if for no other, it was felt essential that community participation in programs be on as wide a basis as possible. People are apt to be interested in and supportive of the projects they help to develop.

Following is a summary of the elements the group considered essential in a day-care program of the scope and quality required:

- 1. The right auspices.**

Day care is a cooperative service which can be rendered under a number of different auspices, public, voluntary, and proprietary. The program should be sponsored in each State

by the group or groups which can develop it best and obtain for it the widest support.

2. Clearly stated goals.

In general, the goals should be to strengthen family life by providing a service which supplements what families can do to help children grow and develop.

3. Proper standards.

These should be based on professional principles and knowledge of the needs of children, families, and communities.

4. Well-developed intake policies.

These must be related to the goals, policies, and scope of the program. They should include diagnostic evaluation of the individual needs of the child and his family in order to provide suitable services. They must be made known to and clearly understood by referring agencies, to parents who use or may want to use the service, and to other people in the community.

5. Qualified staff.

They should have warm and friendly personalities, respect for children and their parents, and a natural interest in them as individuals. People qualified for work in day-care centers are people who have the proper education and training for the positions they fill.

6. Professional counseling services.

Every center should have on its regular staff, or available on a consultant basis, a person professionally qualified to counsel with parents and help staff with problems involving family and community relationships.

7. A schedule adjusted to the needs of the children, their families, and the general community situation.

8. A dynamic program geared to the developmental needs of the children involved.

9. Adequate space.

This means a generous amount of space both indoors and out for carrying on the program of the center.

10. Equipment and materials.

These tools for carrying out the program should be selected on the basis of safety, durability, suitability, versatility, and creativity.

11. Close, friendly working relationships with parents.

This means taking advantage of opportunities for casual contacts with parents as well as interviews with them by appointment.

12. Close working relations with school administrators, teachers, and maintenance personnel.

A child's day should be planned as a whole. Activities in the school and the center should not overlap, duplicate each other, or conflict.

13. Close coordination with the other social, educational, recreational, and health agencies in the community serving children and families.

14. A recognized place in community planning.

Careful appraisals of community needs and resources should precede a decision to set up a day-care service. Joint planning with parents, businesses, industries, welfare, educational and health agencies concerned is essential.

15. Adequate financing.

It is highly important to know how much a given day-care program will cost and how it will be paid for before commitments are made.

As the program grows, opportunities will increase for coordinating Federal, State, and local financial resources as well as parents' fees for it. These should all be carefully explored.

16. Evaluation.

Evaluation should be a continuing process based on a sound plan for assessing the component parts of the service.

In conclusion, the chairman spoke of some of the points made by the group which were not strictly essential elements but had a bearing on these. There seemed to be a general feeling that day care, in its contemporary form, is a social invention which should be developed with caution. It should not be adopted as a program universally desirable or necessary for the healthy development of all children. Child development is primarily a parental responsibility. Day-care service is a supplemental and not a substitute service for families. People should not be enticed into it, but families who need it should know about it through varied and far-reaching plans for interpretation.

Communities must be alert to the needs for day care. These needs often do not appear until a crisis develops. As they look to

the needs and plan to meet them, communities should also look at the reasons why many mothers work outside their own homes.

Varieties of services

Group 3: Special needs of children (Leader: Miss Esther Middlewood, Chief, Education Section, Michigan Department of Mental Health)

Some children and some families have peculiar and special kinds of needs for day care. These require concerted and extraordinary consideration.

This group delved into these special needs of children, including services to the mentally or physically handicapped, the emotionally disturbed child, the child of minority groups, those living in overcrowded slum areas, and the gifted child. The questions posed were geared to community responsibility and were intended to increase awareness of problems. If the day-care program is one which can meet some community needs, how should a community provide these services? Is it feasible, credible, and advantageous to include handicapped children in regular programs? If not, does each special need get fragmentized, and how many fragments are reasonable? What variety and type of day-care service is needed to accommodate the child with special needs: family day-care centers for the handicapped, the gifted, children from minority groups, etc.? What do we do about the provision of day care in overcrowded slum areas where the special need is lack of adequate space and where the economic base is low?

Miss Middlewood appropriately divided the discussion into two sections: needs of special groups of children, and special needs of children.

Material emerging from the discussion on special needs of children has been covered in other sections of this report, so will be dealt with perfunctorily here.

In discussing the needs of special groups of children, the group came to a quick and definite conclusion that all the day-care services, plus the community services available to any child, should be available to atypical children whether or not their deviation from normal is obvious.

Care is the first essential; consequently, diagnostic and eval-

uative services are imperative in order that the kind of care needed is discovered without fumbling. Some extras are in order for the handicapped child whether he be physically or mentally handicapped or handicapped by severe deprivation such as the migrant child, the child in city slums, the child in rural counties, and the child of minority groups. Teachers with special skills may be needed to work with these groups of children. Intensified work with the child's family is also probably in order. More casework, health consultation services, and cooperation among all agencies on a continuing basis should be an essential part of such day-care services.

When children with special problems can be integrated into existing day-care programs, this appears preferable. The bulk of handicapped children may need special settings geared to their abilities. Community responsibility does not cease when it provides only for the normal or average child.

Group 4: Special needs of employed parents (Leader: Julius F. Rothman, Staff Representative, AFL-CIO, Community Services Activities)

This group dealt with the particular problems faced by families where both parents are employed, or where there is but one parent who is also the breadwinner.

Some of the questions around which Mr. Rothman led discussion indicated considerable concern for the mother who, if she works, carries in reality two full-time jobs. This in and of itself creates family problems, employer problems, employee problems, and thus lends credence to the fact that such families have special kinds of needs.

Do industry and labor have a stake in good day-care services? To what extent have the needs of employers contributed to the establishment of day-care services within an industry, and what problems does this create?

A family in need of day-care services where both parents are employed is often in the lower income brackets. The low economic status compounds the problems to be met by day-care services in that the mother carrying almost two full-time jobs has so little time and energy to give devoted, loving attention to the children when she is at home. Respite from any of the household chores is not available to her.

The group gave prime consideration to the special need of employed parents for sound counseling service provided by highly skilled social workers, so that the total family situation and the family need for day care could be fully explored. If sound counseling is available to mothers before they enter employment, it is possible to acquaint

them with alternate solutions to financial difficulties. Often other resources exist within a community which may better fit the individual family than the mother's employment. Mothers who sometimes out of desperation seek employment, because it seems to be the one solution, fail to assess accurately the additional cost of going out to work, the problem of the sick child, and the drain on their own emotional and physical well-being.

Unfortunately, the general community attitude toward the mother who seeks employment has not kept pace with the changing social and cultural scene. Members of the group repeatedly emphasized the need for a community education program to create a climate which does not stigmatize the working mother, particularly where the father is also employed and living at home. Concomitant with this is the necessity for dignifying the status of day-care services and developing community understanding about the imperative need for professional service to children, particularly those who cannot be with their own parents during most of their waking hours.

Day-care homes and centers should be neighborhood based. Schools, churches, and other neighborhood organizations should have a close working relationship with the day-care services. Services which are too far from home base have little opportunity to include parents in the program.

One of the most important aspects of location of service is the need to make periodic studies of need for service. The population is mobile and communities change—where a neighborhood has no need this year, next year a shift may produce a different picture.

Business, labor, and industry have a vital part to play in building understanding and support for community day-care services. Some have already recognized the fact that employed mothers may need special consideration, such as part-time employment, a different work shift, time off from the job when the children are ill, or for the period of the child's adjustment to the day-care service, whether it is in a group center or a part-time home. If, as employers claim, and facts support their claim, that women workers are vital to a healthy economy, then employers have a responsibility to make adjustments which will not deprive children of their essential care nor deprive parents of their rightful responsibility.

Planning by community committees with broad representation from all facets of the community, including civic groups, employers, labor, church groups, professional people, parents, day-care personnel, and State licensing representatives, is important if the development of day-care service is to get off dead center.

The excellence of many commercial or proprietary day-care services was recognized by this group. Because of the high cost of these services, fees are often prohibitive for families on marginal

incomes. As a result, parents are forced to make inadequate arrangements with neighbors or elderly relatives. The import of this cannot be minimized. Some way must be found to bring day-care services within the means of the family who needs them. The opinion was strongly expressed that only through public funds will adequate day-care services become a reality, and that although the price may sound high at first hearing, it can in no way be compared to the exorbitant cost of maladjustment, broken homes, full-time placement of children, and future emotional breakdown.

Fathers as well as mothers have a terrific stake in good day care and should not be ignored or left out of the picture. Of particular concern is the one parent family. This is usually the mother, but not always. Unless services are available, in desperation the family may disintegrate. Of prime importance is the necessity to reexamine the public assistance program in light of its purpose; that is, not to deprive children of their own families for economic reasons solely. In many communities, the aid to dependent children benefits do not meet even minimal need. In a sense, this creates coercion on the parent to leave children to find employment and negates the original intent of the assistance program.

Consideration of the assets and liabilities of establishing day-care centers within business and industry elicit⁷ negative responses from the group. Hospitals and some industrial plants have experimented with this. Usually these are established primarily to entice personnel and to ensure their long-term employment. Often the standards are low. Often mothers under such circumstances get caught in untenable working situations but continue to work because there is no other resource for the children. These centers are likely to be far removed from the child's home neighborhood and he is cut off from friends, attends different schools, must make a whole new set of playmates. Having the mother on the premises may not balance the hazards of this kind of service.

The needs of employed parents, wherever they may be, must be examined and reexamined if flexibility in day-care services is to be assured. As the pendulum of economic change swings, the services must change in accord. This cannot be left to the handful of people working in day-care service but will demand the best talents of each community and the energies of many.

Group 5: Special needs of families (Leader: Mrs. Leon M. Ginsberg, Honorary Chairman, Maryland Committee on Group Day Care of Children)

This group tackled the complex problem of meeting special

needs of families for day care.

Mrs. Ginsberg pointed out that communities find it easier to understand the need for day care of children whose mothers work than they do for the care of children in families with special needs.

While economic necessity is the reason most often given for the need for day care, and is the reason most children are in day care of whatever sort, other problems loom large in documenting need. For example, working mothers are easier to count than the number of families with other kinds of situations affecting children. Many children are in day care because they present behavior problems, illness at home, too many young children in the family and the mother does not have enough time for each of them, grandparents living at home, strained family relationships, immature parents, and so on. Comparatively few of these children turn up in day-care facilities largely because we who have the knowledge have not had the temerity to speak boldly and with courage about the matter. Thus is created the inevitable circle of too little day-care service, too little exploration of need, too little understanding in the community, too little power to move, too little organization, and too few facts.

In the discussion, some basic premises were laid down which, while not new, bear repeating. Implicit in planning for day-care services is that we cannot differentiate between the child's and the family's need. Any community program which exists to serve families must be family centered, whether the need stems from a child's problem or from some other aspect of family life. In order to arrive at a plan of choice for a family, a whole range of services should be available within a community to meet the wide variety of needs.

In selecting group or family day care as a choice of service, the following factors should be taken into consideration:

1. The strength of family relationships, together with the ability of parents to provide the support needed by the child in adjusting to separation from the home and to a new environment.
2. The values, wishes, and preference of the family in terms of day care meeting its needs.
3. The opportunities which day care can afford for working with families toward the goal of strengthening family life and contributing to the development of the child.
4. The quality of day-care service available.
5. The age of the child, together with his ability to benefit from group day care or family day care.
6. The number and ages of children within the family.

These factors are not too different from those to be considered for the family without special kinds of problems, but they do highlight the need for quality service to all children. This group like others recognized that the same prods to communities are relevant, whether there is a special or general need for day-care service. Thus the reiteration about what to do runs throughout all the group discussions of the conference.

Promoting adequate standards

Group 6: Licensing and consultation (Leader: Malcolm S. Host, Executive Director, Houston Day Care Association)

Through good statutes, society can guarantee the quality of care and protection to children who must be out of their own homes for part of a day. Good will on the part of a few is not enough to assure that high standards of service will be met in a community. Neither can it be assumed that people of good intentions and loving nature will know by instinct what is best for children. Consequently, many States have provided basic legislation covering the licensing of day-care homes and centers. States have also developed standards by which to judge the adequacy of the care children receive. These indicate the importance of licensing and consultation in promoting better day-care services.

Mr. Host opened the discussion by reviewing the current status of licensing and consultation in the Nation with a view to setting the stage for better understanding of this facet of the total day-care program.

The responsibility for licensing generally rests with the State departments of public welfare, but this function is sometimes lodged with State departments of health or education. Whichever department has major responsibility, it is essential that all three work together to develop good standards because all three have important parts to play in the provision of good day-care services. It is at the State level that coordination of these three disciplines should take place and each must be willing to cooperate with and have respect for the contribution of the others.

While many States have laws for licensing day-care services, standards vary greatly among the States. In some, licensing is mandatory; in some, permissive. Some States have no personnel to enforce the law even when it is specific. Those who are most involved see day care as both a preventive and a protective service. Communities sometimes are unaware of the importance of these preventive and protective aspects

and do not recognize their responsibility for supporting good legislation and standards.

Personnel who license services must understand the variety of attitudes prevailing in any community toward licensing and lay plans to gain ground in an orderly fashion. Many people believe higher standards will increase the cost to the community (and they will); others see higher standards as decreasing their profit; some believe that the State has no right to exercise control in this area; some people decry the role and motives of the proprietary operation; and there are those who get discouraged that the whole world cannot be reformed by tomorrow.

Representatives of all groups in a community should be involved in developing good standards so that there is substantial support for the end product.

Sometimes a difference exists between the actual licensing provisions and standards. Currently licensing provisions often represent minimum requirements and standards, higher goals toward which there should be movement. This probably happens in any new area of service. A State starts with what is practically attainable, then moves step by step to improve its program. This is why the actual process of granting a license goes hand in hand with a consultation service. It is through consultation with trained personnel that standards of service are most likely to be raised.

The group in opening its discussion quickly came to some general agreements. First, no acceptable reason exists for exempting children from their right of protection under law whether day-care service is offered under public, voluntary, or proprietary auspices. The group was particularly concerned about church groups which in some States are exempted from the law. Second, there was agreement that the State is the level at which day-care programs should be licensed. There was not agreement in which department the State should place responsibility for the licensing and consultation program.

Standards vary among different departments and sometimes are not related to the needs of children. Consequently, it is imperative that whichever department has responsibility, it must have the help of other departments in establishing a full and complementary set of standards that will meet children's needs.

In no State is there a single standard administered to all kinds of day-care programs by one department. In some States, day-care programs for the handicapped are licensed by the State health or mental health departments; day-care centers by the department of public welfare, etc. The group believed that any program designed to meet needs of a selected group of children, such as the handicapped, should meet the basic requirements for all programs and, in addition, provide for these special needs. It, therefore, appeared that one

department should have responsibility for licensing all day-care services.

The group also agreed that any licensing law must be enforceable and must contain minimum standards below which no program would be permitted to operate. Unless the law is enforceable, minimum standards are not minimum and children are left unprotected. However, the group recognized that protection is afforded when an educational program is used to develop community understanding and support for higher standards. To promote such a program of community education is part of the consultation aspect of the service. The group also believed that every operator of any kind of day-care program, even those involving only one child, should be licensed.

Bringing agencies up to par is a long process, and one means for accomplishing this is through granting provisional licenses. What was a minimum standard and how long a program should be allowed to stay at that level was not resolved, but it was clear that licensing is being carried on in some instances at a very low level, partly due to acceptance of the philosophy that "it is all we can expect."

Although the focus of this discussion group was on providing adequate protection to children, members of the group pointed out that adequate licensing and consultation service provides protection to the agency or owner who operates the service.

In discussing the protective aspects provided the operator of day-care services, the group pointed out that obtaining a license gives status to the service. The coexistence of shoddy, cheap, or spectacular programs creates competition difficult for good services to face. Recognition by parents and the general community of good day care is sometimes enhanced by the licensing program.

Day-care licensing should include certain elements, such as responsibility to locate, identify, and list all facilities caring for children who are not related to the person providing the care; authority to visit and evaluate what is being done for and with children under care. Visits to observe, inspect, and consult should not be restricted to the time of issuing the license.

Consultation and assistance to help a facility to achieve improved standards should be mandatory as well as the inspection service. Authority goes with consultation in some of its aspects but should be done in a positive spirit of helping people see possibilities for improving the service from which they can make their own choices. If the consultant has the welfare of children as the focus of his consultation, consultation will be on a continuing basis and not a perfunctory task. The services of a good consultant will be sought by agencies and operators, and he will not need to use his authority in order to work with them.

Thinking of licensing standards as mere minimums has led to standards which are too low. Conversely, application of high standards without providing a process for reaching them has led to closing agencies which might have been helped to provide much needed service to a community.

These two extremes can be obviated by providing standards that can be attained in steps: (1) a standard which is the floor below which service is not acceptable; (2) a higher standard toward which agencies must work steadily and relatively quickly, during which time a provisional license is issued; and (3) a standard which represents the kind of program that is desirable and toward the achievement of which consultation is provided. The group stated that caution is necessary in establishing the floor or minimum standard so that it is not just what currently exists but what it should be. This floor must prevent damaging experiences to children and provide the bare essentials for a growing personality.

Communication among States, among national agencies concerned with children, and among agencies of the Federal Government is vital on this matter of licensing practice and procedure. It is scarcely credible that children in different parts of the country really have such differing needs as is currently evidenced by the variety of laws in existence. The consultation service should be available to parents, community, and legislative bodies also.

Community understanding undergirds the legislative action which is necessary for a licensing and consultation service to have effect. Uninformed parents often use programs which are outrageously poor because they have no backdrop against which to measure values and, therefore, cannot make valid judgments on what they use.

On rare occasions, employers have been known to oppose the licensing of day-care services because mistakenly they see this as a hazard to obtaining a supply of labor. Education of employer groups is partially the responsibility of the licensing agency.

Standards for the licensing and consultation service should be established to insure that the process, personnel, procedures, and other resources be sufficient both in quality and quantity to provide the necessary protection of the program.

There was a strong expression of the need for the Children's Bureau to develop, along with others, a guide to standards for licensing so that the States need not flounder in their search for adequacy.

Obviously the foregoing leads to providing for education and training qualifications of staff within the law. These are not fool-proof but, all things being equal, less risk to agencies, communities, and parents and children is likely to occur if these are established.

Since there are not enough qualified people to go around, effective inservice training must be provided. Formal training is not available in all sections of the country, but this is no reason for the failure to supply adequate people to the licensing and consultation staff. Many places provide a training program and State university extension services have been most helpful in it. The result of such programs is a visible and commendable upgrading of day-care service.

Research is needed and should be used to develop good standards. The absence of research does not need to deter the battle for improvement.

Group 7: Personnel and training (Leader: Dr. Donald Brieland
Director, Elizabeth McCormick Memorial Fund)

This group had the task of searching for some common denominators which would lead to obtaining adequate personnel for day-care services.

Dr. Brieland described some of the problems facing day care in obtaining the best possible standards for personnel together with the training program involved in this. The development of training standards for personnel is difficult and has been characteristically absent from most of the standards for licensing by State departments of health, education, or welfare.

It is particularly difficult, given the realities of supply and demand and of financing, to secure people adequately trained in early childhood education to work with every group of children in day-care centers. How can partially trained staff and volunteers, working under the supervision of fully trained staff members, be used more effectively?

The trends toward earlier marriage and earlier establishment of families, desirable as they may be for society, make the term of service of many workers in day care, as in many other fields, very brief. This would suggest a need for discussion of intensive inservice training programs based on a clear recognition of the attitudes and skills most necessary for the worker.

Briefly the discussion that followed fell into seven categories: standards, personality requirements, training, inservice training, integration of disciplines, recruitment, and recommendations for financing training programs.

Generally, statements of standards, the group believed, should be considered as minimums, and should be accompanied by statements of goals, with emphasis on the goals. Standards and goals should be the same for all types of day care—public, voluntary, and proprietary.

Training requirements for day-care workers should be on a level with the requirements for comparable positions in other fields,

and salaries should be commensurate with the degree of training required.

Personality requirements suitable to a staff position should include serious consideration of the mothering aspect of day-care services. Emphasis should be placed on both the personality evaluation of students in training institutions and on personality requirements in standards set for job appointment.

Instruments are needed for screening and testing applicants for positions. The group strongly recommended that evaluation of prospective candidates for positions include a report from the training institution on personality as well as ability.

The group affirmed the spirit of the recommendation on training of the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth "that every group care center for young children be supervised by at least one person qualified in early childhood education." This was considered a minimum standard, however, rather than a goal. Training for teaching staff in day care should include a knowledge of family life as well as a knowledge of child growth and development.

One of the major differences between a day-care center and a nursery school is the need of the child in day care for mothering since he spends more hours of the day in the center, which becomes a home supplement. Differences need to be spelled out so that training can be focused on day-care needs. Special courses for day-care personnel should be offered by training institutions.

Day care for the school-age child is not an extension of school, nor is it a recreational program. It requires staff who understand the developmental needs of the 6- to 12-year-old, and can provide a program around the interests of that age group. Training institutions need to be encouraged to develop courses focused on day care for this age group. Some provision for educational leave or scholarship support should be available.

Although this group concentrated on the training of educational personnel, within the framework of its discussion laid implications for the training of workers in health and welfare.

Recruitment for personnel in the day-care field is a problem of great proportions because of the irregular hours of work and because of inadequate personnel policies and low salaries. Day care does have advantages and satisfactions, but these must be highlighted as a means of attracting qualified persons to the field.

The following were suggested as means of aiding recruitment:

1. Developing model personnel policies such as are available in other fields.
2. Building in the public mind a proper image of day care.

3. Encouraging students to enter the field at both the high school and college levels.

High school students through child development courses and organizations such as Future Teachers of America should be given satisfying experiences in a day-care setting. At the college level, student teacher assignments to day-care centers should be encouraged. Vocational technical high schools, through their child care training courses, are a potential source of trained aides.

4. Appealing to the older age group of professional employables to return to service.

This might involve providing refresher courses.

In a service so vital to the welfare of the future of our country, every possible effort must be made to preserve and improve it by continuous and effective recruitment.

Promoting community responsibility

Group 8: Factfinding (Leader: Dr. Edward E. Schwartz, Professor, School of Social Service Administration, University of Chicago)

To gain support for any project, we must be armed with facts. For this reason, the most urgent requirement in a campaign of promotion of day-care services is to develop adequate methods for fact-finding on the nature of the problem, its size, present facilities—their quantity and their quality and their costs, and why some efforts are successful while others fail.

Dr. Schwartz pointed out that research demonstration and recorded evidence are the tools to use but how they are used affects what happens. He asked the group members to say, first, what they thought, then think further about what they had said.

Common ground was sought by the group through a review of common human needs of all people, for food, love, warmth, and security. Then the group moved to the necessity for community action to provide for these needs when individuals or their families cannot do so.

If enough people have the same problem, the need becomes a social problem when it cannot be worked out with the available re-

sources in the community. Studies of the need for social services such as day care are concerned with the kind, quality, and conditions of services required to control, treat, and prevent social problems.

Who requires day-care services? At first glance, the problem may seem to be only that of the family or the child. Many families need care for their children. In 1960, the child, industry, community, parents, and families all have need for day-care services. The child needs day care; industry needs manpower; the community needs overall health and well-being; parents need help in sharing responsibility for their children; families need care for their children.

The group circumscribed its look at need to our own society and made no effort to make comparisons with other societies or other countries. It did suggest the necessity of comparing various ways of caring for children within our own culture and looking at facts rather than agreeably deciding to support what we think we now know.

Is the basic problem the exploration of the abstract nature of the need for day-care services, or exploration of what happens when children do not have this need met? What kind of data do we have about the number of children being damaged or limited by the kind of care they receive? How quickly do we recognize when substitute care is needed? Do we know what children are being harmed either by lack of day care, or by the type of day care they are receiving? If adequate care is not available, then our "need meeting" society must provide for each child to develop to his fullest. The community has ultimate responsibility for determining the standards it wants for its children. Should there be minimal standards which represent acceptance by the community of its responsibility and plus standards which represent professional ideals?

How can we foster the concept that parents are a part of the community with the right to decide what they want? Should we recognize the fact that we are a completely interdependent society and parents cannot discharge all the functions of child rearing without help? This concept has long been accepted in terms of fire protection, pure water supply, health protection, etc. That some parents do not know they need help with child care does not negate the fact that they do, and a reaching out process on the part of the community is essential.

After itemizing and specifying many goals, the following goal statements emerged: Communities must look at their responsibility to provide needed daytime care for children by first finding out what the needs are and then see that needed services are provided. In view of the awareness of the receptive climate of the general population for meeting human needs, this group expressed the hope that legislative support would be forthcoming for the promotion of community responsibility for child welfare services, in general, and day care of

children, in particular.

Comprehensive and reliable operating statistics on the kind and volume of services being provided by public, voluntary, and proprietary services are essential.

Research is essential in the following areas: on the nature of primary needs of children, mothers, and families for day care; the manifestation of the individual and social problems which may be present due to failure to meet needs; the effectiveness of specific types of services in relation to other costs; values and attitudes of different sectors of the community as to what the rights of others are, and the way of insuring them; how priorities are determined for providing day care in relation to other needed services.

The group placed particular stress on the need for factfinding to include assumption of responsibilities by Federal operating and research agencies for promoting the improvement and standardization of operating statistics; and the direct conduct of research. State agencies and research agencies should be utilized for the production of service statistics, surveys, special studies, and research.

Again and again, the group pointed out that no effective community action is likely to be forthcoming unless facts are known and that too much effort to promote day-care services without basis in fact is lost motion.

Group 9: The community's stake in good day care

(Leader: Mrs. Virgil Gilmore, Treasurer, Day Nurseries, Charleston, West Virginia)

This group believed that most of the objections to day-care services stem from misconceptions about the effect such services have on the general atmosphere of the community in which people live. Social maladjustment, deprivation, and neglect of a few can spread tentacles of the same problems throughout the community.

Mrs. Gilmore defined the community's stake in day care and more particularly in good day care. The problem has two different faces. If the community is considered as the simple sum of the individuals and families who compose it, the return to the community from good day care would be the sum of the individual instances in which day care had promoted family solidarity and stability. If the community is considered as something more than, or at least different from, the sum of its parts, good day-care services carry other values: (1) They could raise the community's standard of parental care; (2) They could make communities more aware of the value of kindergarten and nursery education

where these do not exist; (3) They could tend to drive out bad day care by providing a standard against which good day care can be measured.

This group chose to accept the term "community" as being equally applicable to a neighborhood, a town or city, a State or even the Nation, depending upon the frame of reference. Communities, whatever the frame of reference, have varying concepts of their stake in day care. States that have no licensing laws for the protection of children receiving day-care services are communities that do not recognize their stake at all.

Other than a general failure to appreciate the basic needs of children, the fundamental cause of poor day care was considered to be primarily economic. Good day care is too expensive to flourish naturally in the absence of enforceable standards and a general public concern. Wrestling with all the facets of good and bad standards, the group emerged with a firm conviction that of all the problems created by bad day care, group care of infants is the most pressing.

Members of the group made repeated reference to the need for studies contrasting the effect of good day-care service with poor day-care service. The kind of services implied by the term "good day care" in 1960 were so new and different from past concepts that not enough time had elapsed to properly evaluate these new ideas. Such studies must be undertaken if good day care is to survive.

A feeling that commanded considerable support was that parents are free to put a child into any kind of day care they wish—good, bad, or indifferent. Community pressures, therefore, should be applied to both the purveyors of day care and to the consumers, and the community has a large stake in making sure only good day care is made available.

Financing of day care was ushered in with a carefully thought out statement that the Federal Government has a stake in day care and that it properly should share with States and local communities in the support of this social service. One person demurred on this and placed total responsibility upon the local community. The group reacted to this by expressing the opinion that by the pragmatic test of performance, local communities were not putting sufficient money into day care either for staff, program, or facilities to meet even the most conservative estimate of the amount needed.

General agreement was evident among the members of the group that day care qualified for tax support because it is social service, primarily a child welfare service and, therefore, should be supported by a combination of all levels of government. That a need still existed for the privately supported service was also affirmed since the private agency has a greater opportunity to undertake experimental and demonstration programs.

The group came to the conclusion that communities have a large stake in day care and concomitantly a huge responsibility for its support.

Group 10: Community education, coordination and interpretation (Leader: Miss Martha Jane Brunson, Past President, Kentucky Division, American Association of University Women)

As a society, we are placing great emphasis on planning. Sometimes planning for the seeable, such as highways, urban development, and the like, comes in for much more acclaim than does social planning. The tangible and visible are easier to comprehend. This lends force to the need to do a doubly expert job of social planning. This group undertook the task of considering the means of arriving at community education, coordination, and interpretation—the forerunner to action on behalf of day-care services.

Miss Brunson opened the subject by expressing the need for cooperation of everyone throughout a community who was interested in optimum services to children. Volunteers and professional people must join forces and close ranks if the goal of adequate day-care services for all children who need them is to become a reality.

In developing suggestions for effective community education, not each and every idea will be as effective in one community as in another. The composite of experiences will provide enough leeway for each community to decide for itself what it can use and what it cannot.

No other community service can take the place of day-care services because the focus is different but, in terms of community atmosphere and readiness to accept responsibility, others can be used as indicators of the amount of spadework necessary in planning.

Effective and professional use of all news media is an important method of community education and must be handled with skill and aplomb. All kinds of groups which have a history of promoting effective programs for children should be pressed into service. A workable coordinating group should be formed through which information can flow and from which dissemination of information can take place.

Workshops held in all parts of the State and bringing together both workers and laymen are one of the most effective means of generating interest. Miss Brunson alluded mainly to the “what” of the content which needed interpretation and left to the group the “how” to do it. She reiterated the need for qualified staff, the fact that children learn every day, and that what they learn and how they learn depend on the adults with whom they are in contact.

In its practicality, this group emerged with a list of concrete

things which every community can utilize to some degree. To advance day care, the community should :

1. Know the facts about day-care needs, purposes, and resources. Be able to interpret and defend the budget without apology.
2. Make effective use of all news media.
3. Use films about day care with discussion accompanying them.
4. Sponsor "come and see" tours to day-care agencies when appropriate and done with propriety and without exploitation of children.
5. Establish day-care speakers' bureau with enthusiasts as its core.
6. Relate day-care services to other community interests.
7. Enlist men as well as women in the drive for understanding and supporting day care.
8. Try to interpret day care to the fund sources in the community.
9. Bring labor and industry into the effort.
10. Use employment services as vital referral agencies.
11. Promote national, State, and local conferences to highlight day-care services.
12. Inform colleges and universities about community programs.
13. Include day-care services in community directories.
14. Set a "day-care week" or "day" to involve Government officials in order to educate those with power to act.
15. Have a good public relations service.

Financing day-care services*

Group 11: Ways and means (Leader: Judge Robert W. Landry, President, Volunteers of America Day Nurseries, Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

Judge Landry pointed out the most perplexing problem facing the Nation's need for day care is the matter of finances. Even in pro-

*Two groups (Groups 11 and 12) were established to discuss *Financing Day-Care Services: Ways and Means*.

grams which closely approximate optimum conditions, fund raising is a perpetual problem.

The relatively slow growth of day-care services has caused the spread between the supply and the need to increase every year.

Our whole economy is pushing upward to provide a higher standard of living for the American people. Nevertheless, we find ourselves in the paradoxical position of falling behind in the crucial area of preserving and developing our human resources.

That this Nation cannot afford day care is nonsense. It cannot afford not to afford it and it can afford what it chooses to afford.

The inescapable conclusion is that we have been unable to sell the American public on the vital role of day care except on certain levels. If we have been lagging behind in interpreting our services to the community, let us pause and examine the structure of the day-care program, and if new modes of financing are to be developed, it is appropriate that we look at the day-care program itself.

The operation of a comprehensive day-care program requires the synthesis of various specialized skills and expert business management. It is obvious that to maintain the interdisciplinary team required for the day-care program and to provide them with the necessary working tools, in addition to a physical setting as provided for by minimum standards, is a task that requires considerable effort and determination. The fact that we have fallen short of our goal in many instances is due to our inability to provide financial help. There is danger that we may grow accustomed and overly tolerant of our financial affliction, that we will set lower and more inadequate goals, that we may attempt to take the easier course of "making do" with what we have instead of facing the challenge that circumstances have thrust upon us.

It takes intelligence, patience, energy, and determination to overcome the stagnation of community inertia. Whether the immediate need is the creation of a totally new day-care program, the refurbishing of an existing one, or the sound maintenance of a good program, many hours of expert consultation are required to translate them to the public. A quality of persistence, if not dogged stubbornness, is a prime requisite to bring a plan into fruition, and the problem of providing funds is the most demanding one.

Whether funds be obtained through public support on a broad basis, such as a United Fund Campaign, or from public funds, such as a unit of government defraying certain costs, or from agency solicitation of private citizens, corporations and trusts, there must be a "break-through" to overcome apathy and disinterest.

To the group, an item of great importance to be placed in large letters is the fact that parents' fees constitute a sizeable contribution. From one-fourth to two-thirds of the budgets for day-care centers are met by parents' fees in some agencies. These are usually scaled according to family income and economic situation.

A mother, the sole support of four children working for 50 cents

an hour, can hardly be expected to carry the full cost of day care. On the other hand, many parents do have incomes which preclude the need for subsidy from any source.

In assessing costs, the sorry picture of the salary scales paid to day-care workers comes into focus. Public schools pay twice as much to their teachers with comparably better working conditions. Cooks in the day-care center realize a pittance compared to similar positions in other places.

Although day care is recognized as primarily a social service, yet only a handful of agencies provide social workers for the vital job of giving family counseling, treatment, or referral service. Few have access to general health services and psychological consultation, let alone access to psychiatric treatment when needed. Here again the preventive factors of these services for children and families in terms of averting more costly and drastic arrangements later underline their importance.

The group stood firmly on its belief that good day care can never be supported entirely by parents' fees. Like good schools, it would be impossible to operate without other sources of finance. Both nonprofit and proprietary centers and family day-care homes need financial support from other sources.

Practically, the group listed potential sources of funds: Community Chest or United Funds; local departments of public welfare; county departments of public welfare; subsidies; purchase of care by public agencies or by voluntary agencies; National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States for migrant children; hospital subsidies; church subsidies (money and buildings); fraternal organizations; service clubs; foundations; citizens' groups; public money coming from Federal, State, and local sources.

Having called upon all forces within a community, the group brought itself up short with the recognition that those already head over heels in the day-care movement have not fulfilled their responsibility relating to finance. Accurate estimates of costs are not available—too often goods in kind are not included in budgets—if a building is donated by some group, no estimate of rent, upkeep, etc., is included. Where volunteers are used, no inclusion of their worth is made in the budget. Unless we stop deluding ourselves and the public and present a true picture of the costs, we deserve to fail.

Group 12: Ways and means (Leader: Miss Betty Knox, Member, City Council of Hartford, Connecticut)

This group dealt with financial problems but with a somewhat different approach.

Miss Knox assumed that the group shared her concern that comprehensive day-care services should be provided in every community. Then she presented some of the philosophy and facts that must serve as the cornerstone for the financial structure.

Children in day care who present problems are often those who carry heavy family problems as their everyday companions. Although our Nation is committed to keeping families together, yet in sharp contradiction to this is the fact that the stumbling block to doing this is often the lack of financial resources and the lackadaisical attitude toward preventive services.

Inadequacy of cost accounting is a primary factor in our inability to gain financial support for day care.

Questions posed for consideration included: What figure can be projected on income from fees? This depends on enrollment, on attendance, on sliding scales according to the ability to pay, the neighborhood in which the operating agency functions. If the family need for day care is not one involving financial need, how high should fees be? When a child is ill and there are medical expenses and maybe no pay-check, can we expect a parent to pay to hold a place in the day-care center? Should this parent be denied the place when once the illness is over and his need to return to employment is great?

The group declared that a major responsibility of those working in the field of day care is to be sure that a community is getting its money's worth from its day-care expenditure. We need criteria for doing this. Licensing and consultation exist in most States, suggested standards are available, but there are no clear-cut policies. Confusion exists between costs of day-care services and those of nursery schools. Clearer definition and objectives are essential. Some cities have a zoning problem related to profit and nonprofit organizations other than public schools operating in residential areas.

In salaries, we have even less to work with. No salary guides or personnel practices developed on a national scale for this particular service exist. Some way, we must devise appropriate national guides so that the range of costs and fees do not ramble and confuse the issue.

For what children should a community supply day-care services? How can we reach the parents who need day care for their children? There has been no scientific approach to this. A variety of devices are at our disposal but not comprehensive enough. An overexpanded program can fail, and it is expensive to operate below capacity. Yet we know there is no reason for day-care centers to be less than bulging if all kinds of needs are met. Accurate methods for determining need are crucial.

Is there a relationship between identification of day care as a child welfare service and the sources of support? Some communities still place day care in the realm of service to families who otherwise

would be on public assistance rather than in the total range of child welfare service.

Can any caseworker be expected to determine need, priority, and fee if we cannot give her total costs? Can day care be used as an adjunct to the aid to dependent children program and should it? Clearly the problem of finance is the community's responsibility, but the community can be expanded to include the county, State, and Nation.

Particular correlation was seen between the public understanding of day care and financing problems. This was not a new idea but bears emphasis. The public image of day care is confused as to the differences between day care and nursery schools, play groups, shopping center babysitting services, bowling alley nurseries, and the like. This does much to deter a concerted community effort.

Obviously the major element in financing day care lies in public tax support. However, in coming to this, the question was raised as to whether or not in seeking such support, confusion of the responsibility to commercial and nonprofit agencies might present difficulties.

The conference ends

The sponsors of the conference—both the Women's Bureau and the Children's Bureau—were conscious of their respective roles in not only forwarding the achievement of success in acquiring day-care services for children but in having the conference culminate on a high note of enthusiasm. This was the hope for the luncheon meeting.

Mrs. Alice K. Leopold, then Director of the Women's Bureau, Department of Labor, emphasized the deep concern and interest of the Department of Labor in the establishment of adequate day-care services. The country's manpower can be utilized to its fullest only when every child receives the care and guidance that helps him move in the direction of doing the best he is capable of all his life.

Manpower does not just consist in having or hiring thousands of workers—it is making the most of our greatest human resources. It is imperative that we as a society learn how to counsel and guide children to help them develop to their maximum capacities. This cannot begin when half their youth is gone. Guidance and counseling must begin with healthy, happy, well cared for children.

Manpower studies show that a growing number of jobs will require more and more education and training. This underscores strongly the need of young people to have an environment that helps them prepare for the world of work ahead. The young child needs to be assured of security and affection and to be guided in the development of his in-

terests and in doing what he is capable of accomplishing. Ideally, this guidance is provided in a child's own home, but some circumstances make it necessary for children to rely on day care. This is why day-care services are so important.

No one need make a case for education's importance to the individual and to the country but we do need to point up the genuine tragedy of the youngster who leaves school, who turns his back on opportunity. Unless parents and educators, employers and other community spokesmen do a better and more convincing job, our manpower forecasts show that 7½ million young men and women will start their working lives in the next 10 years without having graduated from high school—this at a time when a high school diploma is becoming the minimum requirement for employment in almost every field of work. The groundwork for the child's continuing in school may need to be laid in planning day-care services, including well-manned, carefully run centers which help parents fulfill their obligations to their children, and in the final analysis strengthen family life.

Mrs. Leopold voiced the hope that the recommendations which came from this conference would inspire as well as encourage communities, organizations, and Government agencies to move ahead to meet the needs of day care for children.

Arthur S. Flemming, then Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, said that manpower may be one of the most serious problems immediately facing the Nation, because a dearth of qualified manpower could limit our ability to adjust in a rapidly changing and complex world. That women will be an increasingly important part of the labor force is a fact of life in the United States.

Secretary Flemming said he becomes a little impatient with those who say that we should not put too much emphasis on day-care services because if we do, we will encourage some mothers to work who do not need to work. That line of reasoning seems to be indulged in by persons expressing a willingness to penalize children in order to convince mothers that they ought to do what others think they ought to do. This just does not make sense when looked at from any point of view.

The day-care program presents the United States with an unusual opportunity to make a contribution in the direction of enabling an increasing number of our people to achieve their highest potential.

The need for day-care services is great; indeed, it never has been greater. The question is, what are we going to do about it as a nation? The Federal Government in the area of day-care service has an opportunity for advancing the leadership that will enable the people of this country to agree on goals and, then, in turn, to agree on what constitutes a fair share of responsibility for meeting these goals on the part of the Federal, State, and local governments. In calling this particular conference, the Federal Government is starting the process of exercising this type of leadership. The reports from this conference will constitute a move in the direction of identifying what constitutes a fair share of responsibility at each level.

To take advantage of its opportunity, in the first place, the Federal Government must become an active partner with State, community, and

volunteer groups, Secretary Flemming said. The Federal Government can do this by providing leadership and identifying national goals; by providing funds for research and demonstration projects; and by providing funds to increase the supply of trained personnel required to sustain high quality day-care services for children.

The Secretary said there wasn't any question in his mind but that the Federal Government must increase its appropriations for child welfare services. This would enable the States and communities to do a better job in this and in other areas. This is also an area wherein the Federal Government should make available funds for research and demonstration projects. He would not say, necessarily, that these funds should be made available exclusively to the States. This is a situation where the Federal Government should have funds available and then should allot those funds on the basis of projects that are presented to it for consideration.

Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger, Chief of the Children's Bureau, cited some of the accomplishments of the conference. It has developed a good many points of view on what is wrong with day care. Certainly day-care services have their imperfections, but as we try to improve or remove those imperfections, or work out needed research plans, we must bend our efforts to provide what we know is needed. We must not abandon the principle of day care while we study it.

While we may feel ambivalent about whether mothers should or should not work, there can be no ambivalence about the need for the care of children. In the final analysis, each community is always responsible for the well-being of its citizens, and most particularly its children.

Perhaps the most important contribution this conference has made is in the explosion of a series of myths. Myth Number 1: More women will go to work if day-care services are provided for their children. In no community can we find any evidence that failure to provide day-care services has resulted in fewer women going to work. What happens is that women seek more and more second rate alternate choices for care of their children when these services are absent. This can be paraphrased by saying that the provision of day-care services no more causes mothers to work than carrying an umbrella causes rain.

Myth Number 2 consists of considering day-care services as synonymous with babysitting or baby parking. Children in day-care services need the best in professional care, since the deprivation of the full-time care of their mothers means they need a plus value in every staff person who touches their lives.

Myth Number 3 says that present professional methods have obtained their highest fruition. Nothing could be more fatal than for those of a professional group to be complacent about their own abilities. Social workers, educators, health personnel, and all others involved in the day-care picture need to keep alive their quest for improved methods of working with children. We recognize that too many day-care facilities are not accessible to those who need them and that, at present, day care fails to meet the needs of many groups of children—not only those of working mothers but those in overcrowded homes and in situations in

which the mother is constantly overworked. We know that many of the mothers of handicapped, retarded, or emotionally disturbed children feel inadequate to meet the demands of continuing daily care of their children.

We have also painfully faced the fact at this conference that at the present time, our day-care standards are in a dangerously uneven stage of development. Enormous numbers of agencies fail to meet even minimum standards. Some States have no licensing laws. However, it has been heartening to hear so many representatives of so many communities say, "We are at such and such a stage, but we are moving in a systematic pursuit of excellence."

The constantly repeated plea for further research, not just of a basic nature, but also of demonstration and evaluation, is indeed an enlightening approach to some of the problems. We look with enthusiasm to the studies being undertaken by the Child Welfare League. But while we pursue greater understanding of our problems through research, we must continue to serve our children by multiplying our day-care resources and putting to work that which we already know. Nobody stopped the use of the iron lung while we sought the answer of the polio vaccine.

And finally we exploded the myth that day-care services are unique or revolutionary. They are 100 years old in this country. They are almost always among the first services established in underdeveloped countries as they face current urbanization. A United Nations International Children's Fund study in one of its first areas of welfare concern showed the beginnings of many different varieties of organized day-care services throughout the world.

We know that it is true that the need was never greater in the United States than it is now since the increase in the facilities for day care has failed so patently to keep pace with the growing numbers of mothers in the labor market in our expanding economy.

Mrs. Oettinger concluded by saying that while we need fanatics to keep visible the needs of day care, we leave the conference with the realization that day care is only one part of a mosaic of services for children. If we allow gaps to exist, the child can stumble and fall through the cracks. We cannot afford to fail in a country where we acknowledge our responsibility for what happens to our children.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the conference have been classified by the five broad discussion areas. Some of them are consolidated in order to avoid repetition and to reflect more clearly the emphasis of the discussion groups.

The conference recommended :

Essential elements in a good community day-care program

1. That day-care services be an integral part of the total range of child welfare services in every community; that these services be provided for all children who need them from infancy to adolescence.
2. That the skills of many professions—social work, health, education, and others—be utilized in the day-care program.
3. That a comprehensive day-care program should include a variety of services: family day-care homes, day-care centers, counseling services.

Varieties of services to meet special day-care needs

4. That communities make a special effort to develop family day-care services to meet the needs of children under three and of those older children who cannot adjust to group care.
5. That children with special problems (those with emotional, physical, or mental handicaps, children in migrant or other minority groups) have access to day-care services.
6. That the community develop public acceptance of the use of day-care services for the care of children of employed parents.
7. That day-care services be available to families with special problems other than the employment of the mother, such as overcrowded housing conditions, deprived environments, chronic or

long-term illness, immature parents, large families with small children.

Promoting adequate standards

8. That emphasis be placed on the development of more adequate licensing and consultation services, including guides on minimum and goal standards, the special training of licensing personnel, recruitment.
9. That standards be the same for all types of day care, public, voluntary, and proprietary.
10. That students in health, education, and welfare be given orientation to the field of day care.
11. That every day-care center for young children be supervised by at least one person qualified in early childhood education.
12. That particular emphasis be placed on the training of personnel for day-care services for school-age children.
13. That all day-care programs be responsible for providing inservice training for staff.
14. That statements of standards and goals for personnel include personality requirements as well as academic training.
15. That salary scales and personnel policies be upgraded to the same level as comparable services in other fields.
16. That national agencies and communities develop recruitment programs for day-care personnel.

Promoting community responsibility

17. That research on all aspects of day-care services is a crucial need and that voluntary, Federal, and State funds be made available for this purpose.
18. That Federal, State, local, and research agencies develop procedures for standardizing and reporting operating statistics on day-care services.
19. That community planning for day-care services should involve parents, organized labor, industry, business, voluntary and public agencies, and citizens' groups.
20. That sound community planning should require continuing and close cooperation with other agencies in the development and operation of these services.
21. That each community establish a planned program of community education and interpretation of day care.

22. That a national followup committee be established to promote the recommendations and implications of this conference.
23. That regional and local day-care conferences of representatives of public and voluntary organizations be convened to promote community understanding of day care and to develop methods for meeting local needs.

Financing day-care services

24. That more effective use be made of existing funds for training and that additional State and Federal support be made available through appropriate health, education, and welfare channels.
25. That a concentrated effort be made to obtain local, State, and Federal funds for establishing a broad range of day-care services of good quality in every community.

Conference members in their discussion groups arrived at concrete and specific recommendations. These not only point the way to what to do but have much to contribute to make the doing possible.

*If to do were as easy as to know what were
good to do, chapels had been churches,
and poor men's cottages princes' palaces.*

The Merchant of Venice
Act I, Scene 13

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, November 17, 1960

OPENING SESSION

Presiding

Mrs. Alice K. Leopold

Director, Women's Bureau

United States Department of Labor

Symposium DAY CARE: A RESPONSE TO SOCIAL CHANGE

WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE

Dr. Ewan Clague

Commissioner

Bureau of Labor Statistics

United States Department of Labor

CHANGING VALUES IN OUR SOCIETY

Dr. Ethel J. Alpenfels

Professor of Anthropology

School of Education

New York University

WHY DAY CARE?

Mrs. Randolph Guggenheimer

President

National Committee for the Day Care of Children

DAY CARE—AN ESSENTIAL CHILD WELFARE SERVICE

Mr. Joseph H. Reid

Executive Director

Child Welfare League of America

DISCUSSION GROUPS

A. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN A GOOD COMMUNITY PROGRAM

1. Services to preschool children

Mrs. Madeliene Siemann

2. Services to school-age children
Dr. W. Mason Mathews

B. VARIETIES OF SERVICES

3. Special needs of children
Miss Esther Middlewood
4. Special needs of employed parents
Julius F. Rothman
5. Special needs of families
Mrs. Leon M. Ginsberg

C. PROMOTING ADEQUATE STANDARDS

6. Licensing and consultation
Malcolm S. Host
7. Personnel and training
Dr. Donald Brieland

D. PROMOTING COMMUNITY RESPONSIBILITY

8. Factfinding
Dr. Edward E. Schwartz
9. The community's stake in good day care
Mrs. Virgil Gilmore
10. Community education, coordination and interpretation
Miss Martha Jane Brunson

E. FINANCING DAY CARE SERVICES

11. Ways and means
Judge Robert W. Landry
12. Ways and means
Miss Betty Knox

Film Premiere CHILDREN OF CHANGE

Presiding
Mrs. Ruth Grigg Horting
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

INTRODUCTION OF THE FILM

Mrs. Alberta Jacoby
Executive Director
Mental Health Film Board, Inc.

HOW WE CAN USE THE FILM

Audience

HOW CHILDREN'S BUREAU SEES THE FILM'S USE

Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger

Chief

Children's Bureau

Friday, November 18, 1960

DISCUSSION GROUPS CONTINUED

CONFERENCE LUNCHEON

Presiding

Mrs. Katherine B. Oettinger

Chief

Children's Bureau

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Miss Elizabeth Bjorling

Associated Day Care Service, Philadelphia

Clark W. Blackburn

Family Service Association of America

Miss Sally Butler

General Federation of Women's Clubs

Mrs. William J. Cooper

National Council of Jewish Women

Mrs. Edgar Driscoll

West Roxbury, Massachusetts

Dr. Gunnar Dybwad

National Association for Retarded Children

Mrs. Leon M. Ginsberg

Maryland Committee on Group Day Care of Children

Miss Bertel Gordon

Foster Family Day Care Service, New York

Mrs. Randolph Guggenheimer

National Committee for Day Care of Children

Miss Dorothy Guinn

National Council of Negro Women

Miss Fannie Hardy

National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs

Miss Helen Harris

National Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers

Miss Christine M. Heinig

American Association of University Women

Mrs. Theresa A. Jackson

Child Welfare League of America

Miss Mary Ruth Lewis

National Council of Catholic Women

Dr. Geoffrey M. Martin

Kansas State Board of Health

- Miss Edna Mohr
National Association for Nursery Education
- Mrs. Alexander Shipman Parr
Association of Junior Leagues of America, Inc.
- Mrs. Esther Peterson
AFL-CIO Industrial Union Department
- Mrs. Richard G. Radue
National Congress of Parents and Teachers
- Mrs. Wallace Streeter
United Church Women
- Miss Kathryn Warren
Tennessee State Department of Public Welfare
- Kenneth I. Williams
United Community Funds and Councils of America
- Miss Myrtle P. Wolff
American Public Welfare Association
- Lt. Colonel Jane Wrieden
The Salvation Army

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